

# Survey Rates High School Here 52 Percent Effective

## 1100 ATTEND SCHOOL BUILT TO HOUSE 872

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a series of stories on local schools. A special school bond election is slated for March 21. Two bond issues, each for \$1,000,000, will be put before the voters. One bond is for Elementary School expansion; the other, to build another high school and to repair the present plant. It is not the intention of this paper to either recommend or condemn passage of the pending bond issues but merely to report findings of the Melbo Survey and to show conditions as they exist.

If another floor were to be added to all the buildings at Torrance High School, the plant would still be overcrowded. Such was the conclusion reached by school authorities following the publication of a recent and extensive survey of the Torrance High School and other schools within the Torrance Unified School District.

## Fun Festival Set Here For April First

Youngsters who want to be in a big parade with "Bozo" the Clown, recording and television star, will get their chance on Saturday afternoon, April 1, and no April fooling, either. For on that day, in connection with the big Torrance Spring Fun Festival being sponsored by Lions and Optimists clubs, there will be a big Kiddies and Pet parade, with all kinds of prizes for costumes. Charlie Gots, chairman of the Joint Lions-Optimists Spring Fun Festival committee, said that there will be prizes for the best float entered by a child, for the best costumes, in westerns, old-fashioned, impersonators and a dozen other classifications, both for kiddies and for their pets.

Torrance Youth and High School bands are being asked to march. Gots named a joint Lions-Optimist committee for the Kiddies and Pet parade consisting of James Van Dyck, Elmer "Red" Moon, Warren Hamilton, Paul Diamond and P. S. Solonen. The Torrance Spring Fun Festival opens on March 29 and runs through April 2 in downtown Torrance, with rides and booths for young and old. It is a charity affair, sponsored by the two clubs, with participation by a dozen other organizations.

## Fall, Heart Ailment Kill Former Iowan

A fall at his home combined with a heart ailment were blamed for the death Saturday of Elmer A. Scoville, Sr., 68, 1100 El Prado, at Los Angeles General Hospital Saturday, according to the county coroner's office. He had lived here since 1941, when he came here from Iowa. Services were conducted yesterday at Stone and Myers Mortuary by Rev. U. S. Schauer, pastor of the Central Evangelical United Brethren Church. Burial was in Pacific Crest Cemetery at Redondo Beach.

Family survivors include a son, Elmer, Jr., of Torrance; two stepsons, Clifford Kloppenburg, of Torrance, and Arnold Kloppenburg, U. S. Army; three daughters, Mrs. Viva Kail, Torrance, Mrs. Lillian Barker and Mrs. Hazel Barton of Marshalltown, Iowa; two brothers, Frank Scoville, Des Moines, Iowa, and Willis Scoville, Marshalltown; and a sister, Mrs. Minnie Fields, Marshalltown.

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The survey, conducted by Dr. Irving R. Melbo, professor of Educational Administration at the University of Southern California, and a staff of under-graduate assistants, rated the high school with 519 points out of a possible 1000. The school was built, the survey says, to house 872 students. Slightly more than 1100 now attend the 17½ acre school plant at Carson street and El Prado.

One of the short comings of the school, the survey indicates, is that the main building is beginning to show its age. Originally built in 1916 the building is definitely showing signs of its 36 years. The grounds at the moment are torn up in two places to replace root-clogged and crushed sewer lines. Wooden stanchions supporting a covered walkway between buildings are beginning to feel the effect of many, many classes of not too gentle and prankful students. The supports are brittle, dry, and in some cases actually jagged.

Because all available classrooms are already in service, some groups of students must meet in the auditorium. Some mornings it is 11 o'clock before the temperature in the huge room reaches as high as 55 degrees. A similar condition exists in the shop buildings.

Students as well as other spectators attending at high school events staged in front of the bleachers must walk a full quarter of a mile to rest room facilities. For those sitting at the far end of the stadium it is even farther. The need of extra classroom space has pressed into service two low-ceilinged, poorly-lighted and poorly-ventilated basement rooms.

One, with a concrete ceiling low enough to touch and honey-combed with exposed water and drainage pipes, is used as a music room. The echoes are ear-splitting. A closet is used as a practice room.

The school cafeteria is located in two ancient bungalows with part of the facility located in a hall connecting the two structures.

Students who eat at the cafeteria must take their trays across a dirt runway to tables located outside beneath a covered pergola. In rainy weather the runway becomes a clay quagmire.

The gymnasium was found lacking in many respects. The basketball court does not meet official standards. It is too short.

From the viewpoint of spectators the building is considered very poor. A folding partition bisecting the gym for use by girls' and boys' gym classes, screens large portions of the court. Only those spectators sitting near either end of the gym may see the full court. The facility would enjoy more use by the community if the spectators could view the entire floor.

Considered as a serious handicap to a student's education is the lack of adequate storage space. Some classroom projects, especially in the shops such as woodworking, must be discarded because there is no space in which to store the objects or are working on. This is true also in the adult education program at the high school. The number of local residents who wish to take up upholstery is limited by the space in which the pieces of furniture may be kept between classes.

Looking into the future this startling fact is revealed. If no new students move into the district, had new home building stopped in October of 1949 at the time this survey was made, the students now enrolled in the first four grades



**BASEMENT CLASSROOM . . .** Because of a shortage of classrooms at Torrance High School, these English students take their lessons in the basement of the auditorium. Low concrete ceiling, ground level windows and small heater, make studying difficult.—Herald photo.



**THE WOODEN CURTAIN . . .** Students and spectators miss much action taking place on the gymnasium floor when they are forced to sit close to partition shown in photo. Wall encloses folding doors originally intended to divide gymnasium for use by boys and girls at the same hour. Now stands as curtain to screen much play action and other events from spectators in the stands.—Herald photo.

## Toastmasters Elect Watkins New President

Harry Watkins was elected president of the Torrance Toastmasters Club Tuesday night. Other new officers are Lester Foster, vice president; Luther Mumford, secretary; M. C. Hunt, treasurer; Bill Evans, sergeant-at-arms; Harry Burkholder, former president, is now deputy governor.

The new officers will be installed April 8 when the club will hold a speaking contest for the championship of the group.

**TO MICHIGAN**  
Mrs. Clair Mosher, who arrived by plane to attend the funeral of her brother, Hollis W. Towler, whom she had not seen for 30 years, returned Saturday to her home in Mason, Michigan.

would swell the high school enrollment to 1500 students—almost twice the school's rated capacity. There are 750 new homes planned for construction at Crenshaw and 190th street—alone.

## Letters To The Editor

Torrance Herald Editor  
Dear Sir:  
It was interesting to see the pictures in the Torrance Herald of the seriously overcrowded conditions at Torrance Elementary School. My son is in the fifth grade there, having attended since the first grade, so I knew conditions were bad but I did not realize just how bad until I read a list of the recommendations made by Dr. Melbo for improvement. The school rated only 458 out of a possible 1000 points. Number one recommendation was for proper lunchroom facilities. These are badly needed since our children can only eat cold sandwiches, etc. on these cold days and remain in their classrooms during the lunch hour on rainy days. Then there are some undernourished children who need warm soup and a balanced lunch to help them through their day. Would it not have been better to have used the funds which built the lovely new office of the Board of Education for a cafeteria for these children? I would not want to deny the Board of Education employees and Mr. Hull nice surroundings for their work, but I do feel the welfare of our children should be the first concern of the school board.

I also note the need, listed in this report, for proper fire-fighting equipment and a boiler room that will conform to State safety requirements. Can it be possible that these very necessary things are not provided and the very safety of our children threatened? I wonder how many other parents of children attending this school feel as I do that it is time we demanded these precautions be taken? We are told to vote for another school bond of \$2,000,000 so that in the next year or so a new school can be built in Kettler Knolls to alleviate the crowded conditions. I voted for the last school bond, yet even though our taxes increased as did every taxpayer's in Torrance, I failed to see even the necessities provided for Torrance Elementary School.

Shouldn't we parents have some voice in how this money should be spent? I live in the Kettler Knolls district and would like to see a school here, but I do not believe the school board is justified in waiting for this to happen before meeting the most urgent needs of our children. I know in the past the Torrance Herald has crusaded for various causes which it felt were just, and I fervently hope you will see fit to print this letter. Who-knows, now that election time is near again our children may at least get proper protection from fire.

Sincerely yours,  
MRS. PATRICIA ELLIOTT



**CAFETERIA STYLE . . .** Pictured above are the lunch tables used by students at Torrance High School. Cafeteria is located in two bungalows and a hallway located to the left across an open dirt runway.—Herald photo.

## 44 Pacific Hills Homes to Open

With foundations now being poured, the third unit of Pacific Hills will be opened formally in mid-March. This was disclosed by K. Sande Senness, who is developing the new residential community on Pacific Coast Highway west of Crenshaw Blvd. The third unit includes 44

## His Students Know Their Stuff



Sergeant George R. Ratto is a top-flight mechanic. What's more, he can explain to a beginner what makes an engine tick. That's why George often has recruits assigned him for on-the-job training. When a young man has completed this practical course he has a skill that can be turned into dollars anywhere. "George says, 'I learned my trade in the Army like thousands of other guys. It's the only place I know where they pay you good money to learn something you can cash in on all your life.'"

George thinks a young man is missing a bet if he doesn't visit his local Recruiting Office to find out what the Army has to offer him. IN TORRANCE GOT TO U. S. POST OFFICE.

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